

SEISDON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

For the Year 1904.

—  
WOLVERHAMPTON

JOHN STEEN AND CO., PRINTERS, OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL WORKS.



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WELLINGTON HOUSE,  
PENN FIELDS,  
WOLVERHAMPTON,  
FEBRUARY, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Health Report for the Rural District of Seisdon for the year 1904.

This year was especially notable for two things, one being the Inauguration of the Penn Sewerage Scheme, which we have no doubt is second to none, if not superior to any, although it does not take in all the houses in the district. The second, I regret to say, being a most intractable epidemic of scarlet fever, though without a death. The number of cases was 115, being far the largest number since the year 1894, when we had 140. The average for the last ten years is 48.

The Population, as estimated at Midsummer, 1904, is 13,841;

Being an increase of 67 in Tettenhall.

„ „ 55 in Kinver.

„ „ 108 in Wombourne.

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Total Increase ... 230

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The Births, 322 in number, show, I fear, the tendency of the age for parents to restrict the number of their family, which has such direful results in the depopulation of France; for though the population has increased by 230, through the great building activity, especially in the Parish of Penn, where there have been 90 new houses built, yet the births show a decrease of 5.

The Death Rate is 14.5, practically the average, and the Death Rate of children under one year of age is 121 per 1,000 births, or 12 out of every 100 born. This is a great blot on our country. A very large number of these children being lost from pure ignorance and carelessness.

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### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever has again, I regret to say, been exceedingly prevalent, as in last year, only much more so—there being 115 cases as against 63.

This perhaps is not surprising, as in many cases the rash was so slight and lasted so short a time that it was impossible to say whether it was Scarlet Fever or not, before the desquamation stage, and that in some cases was not characteristic or was much delayed. In some cases it was only because there were other cases in the house that the case was certified at all.

In the case of one adult, which was certified as Scarlet Fever, and the diagnosis verified by myself and the nurses, a typical Scarlet Fever rash developed again a fortnight later, and even then he never desquamated, though kept in nine weeks. Had he not been in a Hospital he would certainly have been released long before.

The number of cases was large throughout the whole year, and in all parts of the Tettenhall and Wombourn districts (only one case occurring in the Kinver district). The epidemic reached its height after August Bank Holiday, as in last year, when large numbers were clearly traced, to four cases which went about peeling with little or no history of previous illness. Other cases, no doubt, have never been discovered at all.

There have also been several cases occurring in the same family or neighbourhood, after a considerable interval, sometimes before and sometimes after the return of a case from the Isolation Hospital. If infection was carried from the Hospital, I believe it was generally from some catarrhal discharge, set up by a child on removal, or subsequently.

In no case have I been able to trace it definitely to any defect in the disinfection of the clothing. Isolation for a few days in the disused Iron Hospital had apparently no effect whatever in the matter. Neither did sending them out a little sooner than usual in some cases, when we were crowded, have any ill results.

This epidemic has been such a troublesome one, that you have rightly, perhaps, made an exhaustive enquiry into the means used for stamping it out, and adopted the following resolution :—

1. The preparation and distribution of handbills describing the symptoms of scarlet fever.
2. Reports to be sent by Schoolmasters to Medical Officer of Health of all illnesses of more than three days' duration.
3. The disinfection of houses and schools, either by a Sanitary Official, or in his presence.

You have also put forward the lofty and laudible desire, fully shared by all the Hospital Officials, though unattained in any other sanitary district, that all danger from return cases should be entirely eliminated.

The district has been very free from the other Zymotic Diseases.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The County Council has still under its consideration the building of a Hospital for this disease, and the Medical Officers of Health have been asked to mention any sites in their districts suitable. Though, as I have before mentioned, we have several ideal aspects, the difficulty of ample water supply and proximity to a railway station curtails the number very much.

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## VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Act works fairly well. Though, out of 300 births from July, 1903 to July, 1904, there are still 7 per cent. unvaccinated in your district, and many of those are only done in one place, which is no guarantee of safety, or, at any rate, only for a very limited time.

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## SANITARY WORK.

During the year there have been 25 samples of water analysed, 15 of which were polluted.

Sixteen wells were closed and tap water substituted.

Proceedings were taken in four cases for infringement of the Public Health Act, and convictions followed.

Tap water has been laid on to 57 houses, principally in the Parishes of Swindon and Penn.

I am pleased to note that you are taking active steps to supply Kinver with pure water, which is so badly needed ; also that the night soils are removed by contract, which, I believe, is giving great satisfaction in the parish.

It is also to be hoped that a similar system will be adopted in Wombourn and Autherley Road. I understand

also that you are only waiting for a water supply to proceed forthwith with a drainage scheme for Kinver, which is so urgently required.

I am also pleased to note that you have passed a resolution to adopt the Private Street Works Act, 1892, as regards certain private streets in the Parish of Upper Penn, and that you will shortly have these roads, on which I have previously reported, made and put into a sanitary condition.

One house has been closed as unfit for habitation.

Further details are appended in the Inspector's report.

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#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

During the year the Inspector and I have inspected all the factories and workshops, and with a few exceptions found them in a sanitary condition.

Seven notices have been served, and six have been complied with.

In one case I found the roof in a very dangerous condition, so much so that a large fall took place a few days later, that has never been thoroughly renovated.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		BIRTHS.		Under 1 Year of Age.			
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.		
1894	... 12408	301	24.2	29	96.3	169	
1895	... 12824	373	29.0	49	131.3	213	
1896	... 13063	324	24.8	40	123.4	180	
1897	... 13416	302	22.5	51	168.8	208	
1898	... 13636	348	25.5	45	129.3	182	
1899	... 13698	309	22.5	36	116.5	205	
1900	... 13773	329	23.1	32	97.2	215	
1901	... 12713	323	25.4	34	105.2	166	
1902	... 12394	326	25.2	29	88.9	157	
1903	... 13111	327	24.9	36	110.0	185	
Averages for years 1894-1903	13103	326	24.7	38	116.6	188	
1904	... 13341	322	24.1	40	121	194	
						14.5	
						12	
						6	
						200	
						14.9	

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,970. Average number of persons per house, 4.6.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District:—Seisdon Workhouse; Bratch Isolation Hospital.

TABLE II.

RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON.

Names of Localities.

TETTENHALL.

KINVER.

WOMBOURN.

YEAR.	Population middle of each year.	Deaths at all ages.	Births registered.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Population middle of each year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Population middle of each year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Population middle of each year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	
1894	3255	64	49	7	3194	82	43	4	5931	155	77	18	161	86	18	161	86	18	161	
1895	3275	94	59	8	3429	87	53	13	6020	192	101	28	158	88	28	158	88	28	158	
1896	3400	80	53	14	3523	84	44	11	6140	160	83	15	158	83	15	158	83	15	158	
1897	3590	87	57	20	3625	68	52	8	6201	147	99	23	21	99	23	21	99	23	21	
1898	3690	88	49	12	3660	83	59	11	6286	177	74	25	21	74	25	21	74	25	21	
1899	3610	87	52	16	3708	75	64	10	6380	147	89	20	21	89	20	21	89	20	21	
1900	3640	92	42	9	3713	91	61	10	6420	146	112	13	13	112	13	13	112	13	13	
1901	3353	82	44	11	3158	70	44	10	6202	171	78	20	20	78	20	20	78	20	20	
1902	3446	92	45	9	3220	85	50	9	6228	149	62	11	11	62	11	11	62	11	11	
1903	3568	85	41	11	3229	71	59	11	6314	171	85	15	15	85	15	15	85	15	15	
Averages of years 1894 to 1903.		3502	85	49	11	3445	79	52	9	6212	161	86	18	18	86	18	18	86	18	18
1904	3635	97	62	12	3284	67	44	7	6422	158	88	21	21	88	21	21	88	21	21	

**TABLE III.**

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Cases Notified in whole District.					Total Cases Notified in each locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
		At Ages—Years.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.						
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	3	...	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	10	...	2	1	5	2	2	3	5	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	115	24	82	8	1	...	39	1	75	34	1	70
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Totals</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>

Isolation Hospital. The Bratch, Wombourn.

TABLE IV.

I give here Comparative Table of Causes of Death, and Ages at which Death occurred, during the year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.					Deaths in Localities (at all ages).					Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.	
Measles	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	...
Whooping Cough	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	...
Diarrhoea	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Erysipelas	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Other tubercular diseases	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2
Cancer (malignant disease)	11	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	10	...
Bronchitis	15	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	...
Pneumonia	18	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Alcoholism	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Cirrhosis of liver	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Premature birth	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...
Heart Disease	25	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	1
Accidents	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	...
Suicides	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
All other causes	90	23	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	28	8
All causes	200	40	13	5	12	50	80	65	44	91	12

TABLE V.—Houses, &amp;c. erected in the Seisdon Rural District during the year 1904.

PARISHES.	Houses erected (Plans passed) to be erected or in course of erection.	Alterations and Additions.	Stabling	Mission Hall.	Guesties.	Sheds.	Brewhouses, Malthouse, &c.	Washouses.	Cowhouses.	Cloak-rooms.
BOBBINGTON	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
CODSALL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENVILLE	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
HIMLEY	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
KINVER	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PATTINGHAM	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PENN (UPPER)	...	...	55	38	5	1	4	1	1	1
PENN (LOWER)	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
PATSHULL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SWINDON	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TRYSULL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WOMBOURN	...	...	10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
WROTTESLEY	...	...	7	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	74	38	12	5	1	5	3	1	1

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING  
THE YEAR 1904.

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Number of Houses Inspected ...	...	...	...	551
Number of Notices on Books, 31st December, 1903...	6			
Number of Notices Served ...	...	...	...	193
Complied with ...	...	...	...	191
Leaving on the Books, 31st December, 1904	...			8
Letters written relative to Nuisances	...	...	...	165
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	11
Slaughter-houses Inspected	...	...	...	8
Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Inspected	...	...	...	54
Canal Boats Inspected...	...	...	...	83
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Houses Closed unfit for Habitation ...	...	...	...	1
Repaired ...	...	...	...	23
Limewashed ...	...	...	...	75
Schools Disinfected ...	...	...	...	8
Houses Disinfected ...	...	...	...	76
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	7
Yards paved ...	...	...	...	5
Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated	...	...	...	1
Cellars Drained ...	...	...	...	1
Spouting Provided ...	...	...	...	5
Filthy Houses Cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
Wash-houses Repaired ...	...	...	...	5
Privies Removed and Reconstructed ...	...	...	...	18
Emptied and Cleansed ...	...	...	...	176
Ashpits Repaired...	...	...	...	17
<hr/>				
Carried forward ...	419			

					Brought forward ...	419
Ashpits built to Privies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Privies Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Doors and Spouting provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pan System Adopted	...	...	...	...	...	33
Privies Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	53
Workshops cleaned and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains laid to Houses ..	...	...	...	...	...	57
Repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Trapped ...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Cesspits Constructed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools Emptied	...	...	...	...	...	5
Foul Cesspits filled up ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Foul Ditches Cleansed...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Urinals Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pigsties removed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ceased Keeping Swine	...	...	...	...	...	3
Catchpits built to Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	6
Foul Pigwash Removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Foul Piggeries Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Manure and other Filth removed	...	...	...	...	...	54
Cowsheds Limewashed...	...	..	...	...	...	11
Pigeons and Fowl removed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pump repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tap Water laid on to Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Wells Cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wells closed ...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved, and Channelled	...	...	...	...	...	3
Soft Water Cisterns cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Analysed Wholesome ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water Polluted ...	...	...	..	...	...	16
Persons Summoned before Magistrates	...	...	...	...	...	4

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT.

Number of Factories Inspected	...	...	...	5
Number of Workshops Inspected	...	...	...	37
Number of Homeworkers' Premises Inspected			...	3
Number of Notices served	...	..	...	7
Number of Notices complied with	...	...	...	6



